

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EB/TT/MA:RKBANK:BST

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TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EWWT IR

MERCHANT VESSELS

REF: A. STATE 177334; B. TEHRAN 6842

1. DEPARTMENT SINCERELY APPRECIATES EFFORTS OF EMBASSY IN ATTEMPTING TO SECURE HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS FOR FACT-FINDING GROUP. ADDITIONALLY, EMBASSY'S SUGGESTION REGARDING CHANGE OF DATES HAS BEEN CONSIDERED, BUT UNFORTUNATELY, POSES PROBLEMS DUE TO THE STRICT TIME TABLE THRUST UPON THE DEPARTMENT BY OTHER AGENCY INVOLVED.

2. ALTERNATIVE DATES SUGGESTED WOULD CONFLICT WITH SCHEDULE OF DEPTOFF BANK, AND IT IS DEPARTMENT'S INTEREST THAT DEPARTMENT, THROUGH BANK, LEAD FACT-FINDING GROUP AS HAD BEEN CASE IN EARLIER SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS WITH EUROPEANS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT OTHER AGENCY, IF UNABLE TO KEEP TO CURRENT
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SCHEDULE, MIGHT DECIDE THAT IMPORTANCE OF MISSION WOULD

DICTATE ITS SCHEDULING FOR A PERIOD OF TIME WHEN KEY DEPARTMENT OFFICERS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE.

3. ACCORDINGLY, DEPARTMENT REQUESTS THAT EMBASSY CONTACT MOSED ZAHEDI (PER REFTTEL A) AND REQUEST HIS ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING ACCOMODATIONS FOR MR. BANK AND HIS PARTY. DE-

PARTMENT BELIEVES THAT MR. ZAHEDI WILL BE COOPERATIVE, AND HIS ASSISTANCE WILL PROVE TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

4. BACKGROUND: THE QUESTION OF FOCUSING ON THE NON-TECHNICAL, LEGAL, AND DIPLOMATIC PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR POWERED MERCHANT VESSELS WAS INITIATED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE LAST YEAR. THE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION, OF THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT, HAS THE OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR NUCLEAR MERCHANT VESSEL DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCING. HOWEVER, IT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S STRONG POSITION THAT IT (THE DEPARTMENT), AND NOT THE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION, SHOULD PLAY THE LEAD ROLE IN OBTAINING DIPLOMATIC SOLUTIONS TO THE THORNY PROBLEMS REFERRED TO ABOVE. KISSINGER

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